

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3 (canceled)

4. (currently amended): A plant for handling and stacking thermoformed containers or lids having at least three projections acting as stacking spacers, at least one of which is arranged at a distance, from a reference centre line of said container or lid, that differs from distance between remaining projections and said reference centre line, at non specular symmetry with respect to at least a centre line of the respective container or lid, said plant including comprising, in sequence, a receiving station for a container or lid or a moulding of containers or lids, at least one handling a stacking or working station for said containers or lids, a stacking station for said containers or lids, transfer means of for transferring the containers or lids from the receiving station to the stacking station through each working or handling station, and is characterized in that wherein at least one of the said handling stations includes handling means arranged to rotate through a predetermined angle every other moulding of containers or lids before or during their transfer to said stacking station, thereby obtaining stacks of lids or containers, where the stacking spacers of a container or lid are angularly offset with respect to those of the next container or lid.

5. (currently amended): [[A]]The plant according to claim 4, wherein said handling means are comprises a support structure and a picking up head or unit for picking up samples of a moulding of thermoformed products, which is are rotatably supported for rotation about a vertical axis rotatably and can be lifted and lowered on said support structure.

6. (currently amended): [[A]]The plant according to claim 5, wherein said picking up head or unit comprises a support member rotatably mounted around a vertical axis on said support structure, a multiplicity of spacers carried by said support member and extending downwards, and a holding means carried by each said spacer, said multiplicity of spacers being arranged and spaced apart with one another respect to the remaining holding means-according to the configuration of a moulding of thermoformed products objects transported by said transfer means.

7. (currently amended): [[A]]The plant according to claim 6, wherein said holding means includes suckers.

8. (currently amended): [[A]]The plant according to claim 6, including a geared motor unit for controlled rotation of said support member.

9. (currently amended): [[A]]The plant according to claim 6, wherein said support structure includes a fixed support, an overhanging arm having one end thereof slidably mounted along at least [[a]] one vertical guide on said fixed support, and drive means to cause said overhanging arm controllably to lift and lower.

10. (currently amended): [[A]]The plant according to claim 6, wherein said handling means includes a robot having at least ~~an~~ one overhanging arm mounted for rotation either around a horizontal axis to carry out for raising-lowering movements for said support member or and around a vertical axis to for transferring mouldings of thermoformed products away from said transfer means.

11. (currently amended): [[A]]The plant according to claim 10, wherein said robot comprises drive means and guide means to carry out movements from and to said handling station.

12. (currently amended): [[A]]The plant according to claim 4, wherein said handling means include at least a support template for a moulding of thermoformed objects, a

support frame carried by said transfer means for each support template and having a circular opening at which a respective template is rotatably mounted, and drive means for causing said template controllably to rotate upon control.

13. (currently amended): [[A]]The plant according to claim 4, wherein said transfer means comprises at least one rotating conveyor with having a plurality of arms.

14. (currently amended): [[A]]The plant according to claim 4, wherein said transfer means comprises at least one linear conveyer.

15. (currently amended): [[A]]The plant according to claim 13, comprising a single station thermoforming press with cut and form mould having a suction plate for picking arranged to pick up mouldings of thermoformed objects products thermoformed therein and arranged to discharge mouldings of thermoformed products them at said receiving station.